

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 DHA-02 IO-13 /082 W

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P R 111625Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1573

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 3771

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

CARACAS OR BUENOS AIRES PASS TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP BR (TODMAN, TERENCE A)

SUBJECT: PRESS SPECULATION ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S VISIT

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S IMPENDING VISIT TO BRAZIL HAS SPARKED SOME LOW-KEYED SPECULATIVE ARTICLES AND BACK-FOUNDERS ON VISIT'S OBJECTIVES IN MAJOR BRAZILIAN DAILIES.

2. RIO'S JORNAL DO BRASIL OF MAY 3, IN BACKGROUND ARTICLE, STATED ITAMARATY SOURCES HAD STRESSED THAT TODMAN WAS COMING AT US INITIATIVE. JORNAL SAW "PSYCHOLOGICAL BASIS" FOR GOB'S CONCERN WITH CHARACTERIZING THE VISIT AS A US STEP SINCE IT WILL BE CLEAR THAT THE US SOUGHT THE NEW ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AFTER A POLITICAL CRISIS THAT BEGAN WITH THE UNSUCCESSFUL VISIT OF DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER IN FEBRUARY. THE ARTICLE
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REPORTS ITAMARATY SOURCES AS STATING THAT BRAZIL WILL NOT REFUSE TO DISCUSS CRITICAL BILATERAL PROBLEMS WITH

TODMAN, BUT IT WILL ALLOW NO DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS ALREADY DECIDED ON BY THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT. THEREFORE, THERE WILL BE DISCUSSIONS, IN GLOBAL TERMS, OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, BUT THE

NUCLEAR ACCORD WITH FRG WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED. FOR THE SAME REASON, THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES, THE AGENDA WILL EXCLUDE POLEMIC SUBJECTS SUCH AS "HUMAN RIGHTS" OR MILITARY AID, WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN REFUSED BY BRAZIL.

3. JORNAL DO BRASIL MAY 4 CLAIMED, ACCORDING TO ITAMARATY SOURCES, THAT TWO GOVERNMENTS WERE IN A "PSYCHOLOGICAL STRUGGLE" TO JUSTIFY THE TODMAN VISIT, SINCE BRAZIL DOES NOT WANT TO ASSUME ITS SPONSORSHIP AND WASHINGTON DOES NOT WANT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT IT INSISTED ON THE VISIT. MEANWHILE, IN "DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES," JORNAL CONTINUES, THERE IS A BROAD UNDERSTANDING THAT THE US INTEREST IN PROMOTING TODMAN'S TRIP DEMONSTRATES THAT THE CARTER GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN TO SEEK A MORE EFFECTIVE DIALOG NOW WITH LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. JORNAL ARTICLE CLAIMED THAT IN ADDITION TO BILATERAL PROBLEMS, THE VISIT WOULD PROVIDE A CHANCE FOR DISCUSSING THE RESPECTIVE POSITIONS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES IN THE IMPEDING OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE NEW POLITICAL CLIMATE, NOTICEABLY IMPROVED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECLARATIONS TO EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS IN WHICH HE RECOGNIZED THE RIGHT OF BRAZIL TO HAVE ACCESS TO NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, THUS" OPENING A POLITICAL BREACH IN THE ICE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS."

4. WRITING IN O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO OF MAY 8, DIPLOMATIC SPECIALIST CARLOS CONDE STATES THAT BASIC MESSAGE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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TODMAN DURING VISIT WILL BE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL PERSIST IN THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND IN HIS OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. WARNING AGAINST OVERESTIMATING TODMAN'S VISIT, CONDE ADDS THAT PRESIDENT VRTER'S SPEECH TO THE OAS, AT LEAST IN ITS GENERAL TERMS, IS THE BEST "ROAD MAP" FOR HIS DISCUSSIONS HERE.

5. WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE VEJA OF MAY 11 CALLS TODMAN VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA NOTHING BUT A "RECONNAISSANCE OF THE TERRAIN," SINCE ASSISTANT SECRETARY HAS NOT BEEN IN THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNTRIES TO BE VISITED BEFORE AND BECAUSE HE NEEDS TO KNOW PERSONNEL OF HIS EMBASSIES IN THE REGION AS WELL AS THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THOSE COUNTRIES. VEJA CONTINUES BY NOTING THAT TODMAN WILL BE RECEIVED BY FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA BUT THAT THE MEETING WILL BE PROTOCOLARY, SINCE THE US DIPLOMAT DOES NOT EVEN BRING AN AGENDA OF MATTERS TO

BE DISCUSSED. THEREFORE, VEJA CONCLUDES, A GREAT PART
OF TODMAN'S CONVERSATIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH
AMBASSADOR JOAO HERMES PEREIRA DE ARAUJO, CHIEF OF
ITAMARATY'S AMERICAS DEPARTMENT.
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